

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 and 17-25 were pending. Claims 1-9, 11-15, 18, 20, 24 and 25 were rejected. Claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 9-15 and 17-18 have been amended. Claims 1, 19-20 and 24-25 were cancelled. Claims 26-31 are new. No new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

Amendments to the Specification

The applicant has amended the specification to conform with the figures. The applicant submits that no new matter has been added with the amendments.

Section 102 Rejections

Claims 2-9, 11-15 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,315,857 (Cheng). The applicant respectfully disagrees.

Amended claim 18 recites a polishing belt. The polishing belt has a plurality of grooves formed therein, the plurality of grooves including only one arcuate shape curved away from a first direction.

Cheng describes a polishing belt with polishing pads attached to the belt. Cheng describes the pads as having either linear grooves 310 (FIG. 3a), zig-zag 410 (FIG. 4a) or wavy or sinusoidal 420 lines (FIG. 4b). The wavy lines curve back and forth across the polishing pad.

Cheng fails to teach or disclose a polishing belt with a plurality of grooves formed therein that include only one arcuate shape curved away from a first direction. Wavy is defined as "moving to and fro or up and down with an undulating motion" or "abounding in waves" (Webster's Third New International Dictionary, 2586 (1989)). The applicant's claimed invention has grooves with only one arcuate shape curved away from a first direction. As shown in FIG. 4b, Cheng's wavy or sinusoidal lines include multiple arcuate shapes. Because Cheng fails to describe a plurality of grooves with only one arcuate shape, the applicant submits that amended claim 18 is not anticipated by Cheng. Claims 2-9 and 11-15 depend directly or

indirectly from claim 18. Therefore, the applicant asserts that claims 2-9 and 11-15 are allowable for at least the same reason.

Claim Objections

Claims 10 and 17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 10 and 17 have been rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations from claim 1. The applicant submits claims 10 and 17 are now allowable. Claims 2-9 and 11-15 depend directly or indirectly from claim 10. Therefore, the applicant asserts that claims 2-9 and 11-15 are allowable for at least the same reason as claim 10.

Allowed Claims

The applicant thanks the Examiner for finding claims 21-23 allowable.

New Claims

Claims 26-31 are new. The applicant submits that no new matter has been added. Claim 26 is an article claim directed to the polishing belt recited in amended claim 17. Claims 27-30 depend directly from claim 26. Claim 31 is an article claim directed to the polishing belt recited in amended claim 18. The applicant submits that the new claims are allowable as submitted.

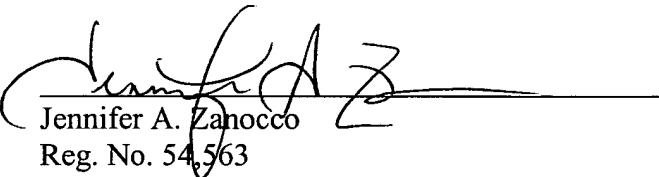
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Enclosed is a \$258 check for excess claim fees. Please apply any other appropriate charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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